

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 PM-03 H-02

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SUBJECT : ISRAEL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR AIRLINES

REF: STATE 150371

1. SUMMARY: EMBOFF MEETINGS WITH GOI AND MANAGERS OF FOREIGN AIRLINES INDICATE THAT ISRAELI RECOMMENDATIONS ON SECURITY MEASURES HAVE BEEN ADOPTED AND ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS TWA ATTEMPT RESOLVE ISSUES WITH GOI SECURITY OFFICIAL BEFORE MOVING TO THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL. END SUMMARY

2. EMBOFF ON JULY 1 DISCUSSED ISRAELI SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR AIRLINES WITH YEHUDA GUY, DEPDIRGENMINTRANS ("SPECIAL DUTIES", I.E., SECURITY). GUY EXPLAINED HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING TRANSPORT-RELATED SECURITY MEASURES IN ISRAEL AND ALSO ACTS AS "ROVING AMBASSADOR" ABROAD IN SIMILAR CAPACITY. ALTHOUGH NOMINALLY SUBORDINATE TO DIRGENMENTRANS, GUY IN FACT IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO MINTRANS GAD YAACOBI, WHO MAKES SECURITY DECISIONS OF POLITICALLY SENSITIVE NATURE.

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3. GUY SAID THAT WHILE ISRAEL DOES NOT HAVE AUTHORITY

TO REQUIRE RPT REQUIRE THAT PARTICULAR SECURITY MEASURES BE FOLLOWED BY FOREIGN AIRLINES, ISRAEL FOR TWO YEARS HAS RECOMMENDED AIRLINES IMPLEMENT LIST OF THIRTEEN MEASURES, (COPY OF LIST BEING POUCHED CARE OF BIZIC NEA/IAI). GUY SAID THAT NO OBJECTIONS OR PROBLEMS HAVE ARISEN AND ALL AIRLINES ARE COMPLYING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS. INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT RECOMMENDATION NUMBER TWO READS "SEARCH PASSENGER'S BAGGAGE BY HAND, INCLUDING A SEARCH FOR DOUBLE BOTTOMS IN SUITCASES".

4. BECAUSE JOHN STEELE AND DANA HARRIS (BOTH TWA SECURITY) AND TWA VP NEWMAN HAVE MET GUY, TWA ALREADY AWARE HIS VIEWS ON NECESSITY FOR CONTINUATION OF HAND SEARCH OF CHECKED BAGGAGE AT NEW YORK FOR ISRAEL-BOUND FLIGHTS. GUY SAID HE TOLD STEELE NO ELECTRONIC MEANS YET ADEQUATE TO SCREEN CHECKED BAGGAGE. HE ALSO INDICATED TO STEELE AND NEWMAN ADVANTAGES TO TWA, BOTH FROM SECURITY AND PR ASPECTS, IF BAGGAGE SEARCH DONE IN NEW YORK RATHER THAN ON ARRIVAL HERE.

5. GUY STRESSED THAT IN EVENT TWA RELAXED BAGGAGE CHECK PROCEDURES, ISRAELI IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW SECURITY MEASURES FOR TWA ARRIVALS SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED REPRISAL, BUT AS NECESSARY PRECAUTION. GUY HOPED THAT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE PROCEDURE CAN BE WORKED OUT DURING NEWMAN VISIT. IF NOT, HIS RECOMMENDATION AS PROFESSIONAL SECURITY ADVISER WOULD HAVE TO BE FOR STRICTER CHECKS ON INCOMING TWA FLIGHTS. RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECISION WOULD REST WITH MINTRANS YAACOBI.

6. GIVEN GUY'S CLOSE PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH YAACOBI, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT NEWMAN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING ISSUES WITH GUY DURING VISIT BEFORE REQUESTING MEETING WITH MINTRANS YAACOBI, IF NECESSARY.

7. LOCL TWA MANAGER ED FRANKFURT SAID THAT TO BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, ALL FOREIGN AIRLINES COMPLYING WITH ISRAELI "RECOMMENDATIONS". EMBOFF CHECKED WITH LOCAL MANAGERS OF FOREIGN AIRLINES. LUFTHANSA MANAGER SCHLOSSER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAID THAT GERMAN BORDER POLICE (BUNDESGRENZSCHUTZ) THOROUGHLY CARRY OUT ALL PERSONAL AND BAGGAGE RELATED SECURITY MEASURES ON LIST CITED IN PARA 3. HE WAS NOT CERTAIN ABOUT AIRCRAFT CHECKS. AIR FRANCE MANAGER HAFNER SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY SEEN LIST, ALL PROCEDURES LISTED WERE EXACTLY SAME AS THOSE FOLLOWED BY AIR FRANCE, WITH ONE EXCEPTION IN THAT PASSENGERS NOT ALWAYS OFFLOADED AT INTERMEDIATE STOPS.

KLM GENMGR FORTIS SAID SECURITY MEASURES AT AMSTERDAM WERE PROVINCE, NOT OF KLM, BUT OF DUTCH GOVERNMENT, AND HE COULD NOT EVALUATE THOROUGHNESS OF SECURITY. HE SAID THAT IN PAST, GUY HAD COMPLAINED OF LAXITY IN SOME CASES, BUT NO COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR LONG TIME. SWISSAIR GENMGR GREIS SAID SWISS FEDERAL POLICE AND BORDER POLICE PERFORM AIRLINE SECURITY MEASURES. HE DETAILED VERY THOROUGH PASSENGER AND BAGGAGE CHECK-IN PROCEDURES WHICH INCLUDE HAND FRISKS AND HAND SEARCH OF ALL BAGGAGE.

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